



MORTAL KOMBAT[®]

BARAKA[™]



DIRECT EDITION



Charles Marshall
Vinton T. Heuck
Abraham Madison
Mark Brill

SHE IS TWO MONTHS OLD AND
ALREADY HAS WITNESSED
MORE BLOODSHED THAN
MOST DO IN A LIFETIME.

SURVIVAL HAS ALWAYS
BEEN DIFFICULT HERE, EVEN
IN THE BEST OF TIMES.

HER PEOPLE--THE MUTANTS--
ARE BEING HUNTED AND
SLAUGHTERED INDISCRIMINATELY.

WAAHHH

SUCH IS LIFE
HERE IN
OUTWORLD.

Charles Marshall • writer
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Abraham Madison & Mark Brill • inkers
Corrie Spiegle • letterer
Mark Paniccia • editor
Dan Shaheen • assoc. editor

Based on characters created by
Ed Boon & John Tobias

MORTAL KOMBAT BABALITY

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THE MUTANTS HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN THIS LAND'S MOST
HEARTY RACE.

NO--STAY
AWAY FROM
US.

YOU
HAVE NO
RIGHT!

UNTIL NOW.



NOW THE DARK EMPEROR
SHAD KAHN HAS CALLED
BACK THE UNDEAD.



THE UNDEAD HAVE REPLACED
THE MUTANTS AS HIS ARMY,
HIS TOOL OF CONQUEST.



THE MUTANTS ARE NO LONGER
NECESSARY FOR THE
EMPEROR'S PLANS.

THEY HAVE BECOME
EXPENDABLE.

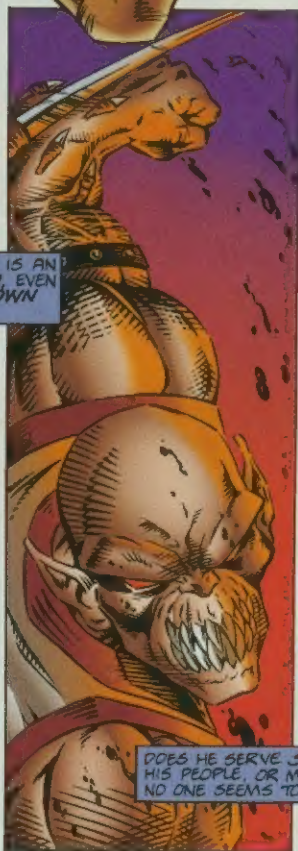


AT LEAST ONE OF THE
MUTANTS IS NONE TOO
HAPPY ABOUT THE
CURRENT SITUATION.

IF DEAD
ONES WANT
FIGHT...
...THEN BARAKA
GIVE THEM FIGHT.




BARAKA IS AN
ENIGMA, EVEN
TO HIS OWN
PEOPLE.



DOES HE SERVE SHAO KAHN,
HIS PEOPLE, OR MERELY HIMSELF?
NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW FOR SURE.







THEY
SLOW AND
STUPID. NO
MATCH FOR
BARAKA.

NO ONE...
NO ONE MATCH
FOR BARAKA.


YOU OUR
GREATEST
FIGHTER.




BUT THIS CHILD--
NANIA-- SHE OUR
GREATEST HOPE.



"TAKE HER,
FRIEND. KEEP
HER WELL."



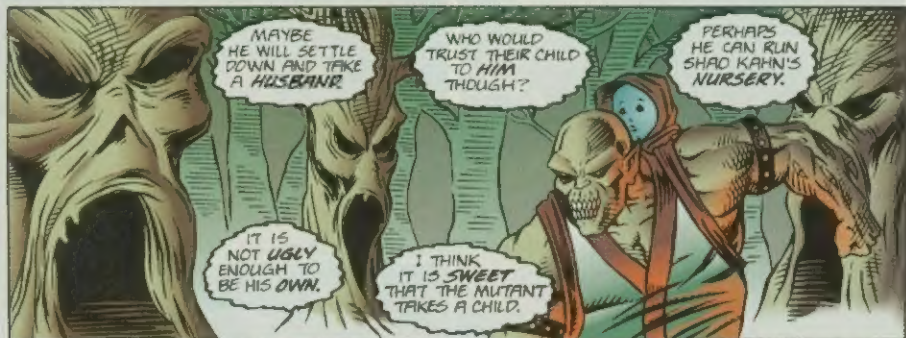
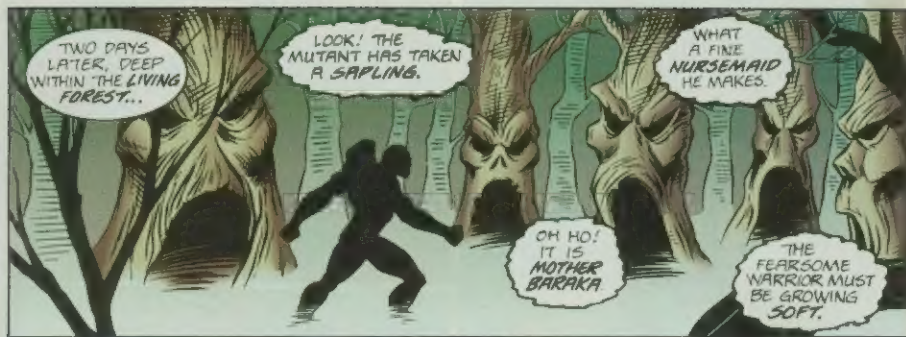
I NOT
UNDERSTAND.
WHAT...?




KEEP HER...
AWAY...FROM
EMPEROR.


SO ONE
DAY...SHE MAY...
SAVE US...

...SAVE...
US...ALL...







DAYS PASS. HE KNOWS HE
CANNOT KEEP THE CHILD,
BUT HE KNOWS NOT WHERE
TO TAKE HER.



KITANA, THE
DAUGHTER OF
THE EMPEROR
HIMSELF.




KUNG LAO, THE
WARRIOR FROM
THE ORDER OF
LIGHT.

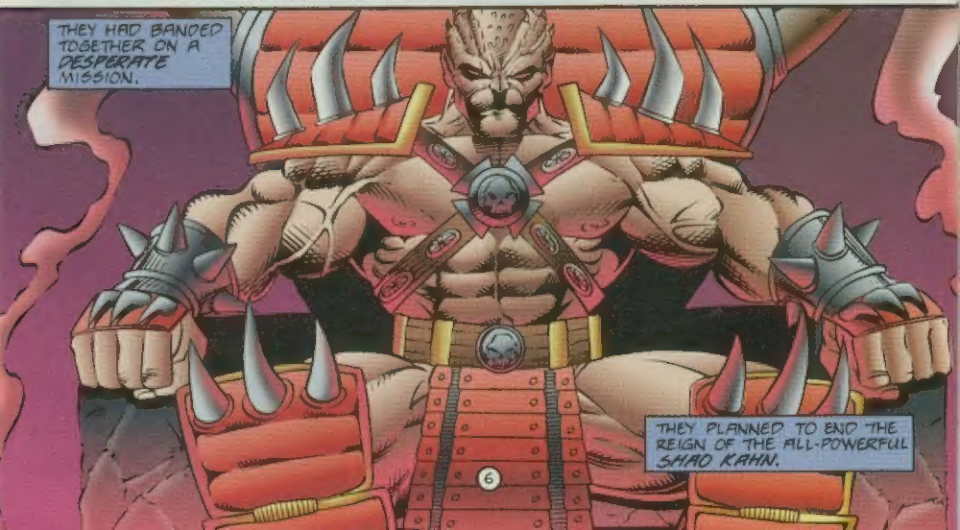


HE THINKS OF THE OTHERS HE
HAS KNOWN, AND THE ANSWERS
THEY MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED
TO HIS DILEMMA.

HE HAD FORMED AN
ALLIANCE WITH
SOME OF THE LAND'S
PROTECTORS,
SEEKING TO STRIKE
OUT AT THE DARK
EMPEROR.



SUB-ZERO, THE MYSTERIOUS
NINJA FROM THE LIN KUEI CLAN.



THEY HAD Banded
TOGETHER ON A
DESPERATE
MISSION.

THEY PLANNED TO END THE
REIGN OF THE ALL-POWERFUL
SHAO KAHN.

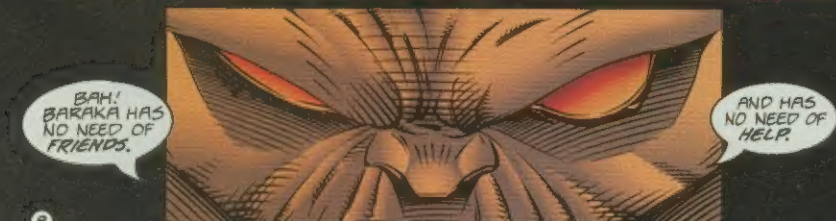


REPTILE TOLD THEM
OF THE EMPEROR'S
MAD SCHEMES.



HOW...WITH THE AID OF THE
NINJA SCORPION AND A
MYSTERIOUS GEMSTONE...







THAT WAS A
WEEK AGO.

WHAT?
UH OH...

THIS IS
NOW.



YOU
WARRIORS
MAY NOT FEAR
DEATH...

...BUT
NEITHER DOES
BARAKA.

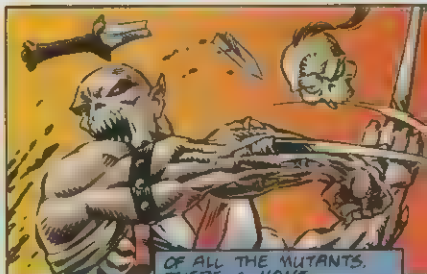


THIS IS THE
CARDINAL RULE
OF OUTWORLD.

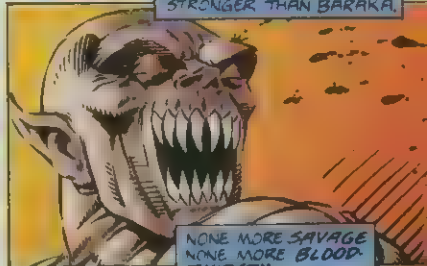
YOUR BONES
BRITTLE, YOUR
MUSCLES
WEAK.

...ONLY THE
STENCH
STRONG.

...ONLY THE
STRONG
SURVIVE.



OF ALL THE MUTANTS,
THERE'S NONE
STRONGER THAN BARAKA.




NONE MORE SAVAGE
NONE MORE BLOOD-
THIRSTY.



YOU SAY
YOU HAVE NO
FEAR OF THE
AFTERLIFE,
MUTANT...

IS THAT
BEST YOU
CAN...WHAT?
THE CHILD?

PERHAPS
I SHALL TAKE
YOU THERE



FOR SOME, DEATH'S
COLD EMBRACE MARKS
AN END TO PAIN, A
SEASON OF SILENCE.

A TIME
OF REST.

WHY FEAR
DEATH WHEN WE
ALL WILL ONE DAY
MAKE THAT DARK
JOURNEY?

IN FACT
SOME OF US
WILL MAKE IT
MORE THAN
ONCE.

FOR OTHERS, LIFE'S
FINAL BREATH COMES
ALL TOO SOON.

THERE ARE TOO
MANY TASKS
LEFT UNDONE,
TOO MANY DREAMS
LEFT UNFULFILLED.

SUCH IS THE
CASE FOR
SCORPION.



BARAKA
REMEMBERS
THE DEAD
NINJA.

AND HE
NOT LET YOU
TAKE CHILD.

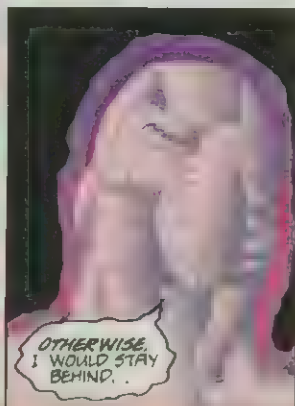
NOT WITHOUT
FIGHT.



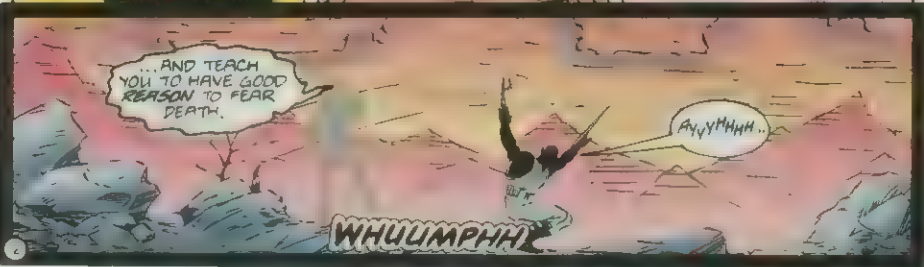
LORD KAHN
WANTS THIS CHILD,
MUTANT.



NO... YOU
CANNOT...



OTHERWISE,
I WOULD STAY
BEHIND...




...AND TEACH
YOU TO HAVE GOOD
REASON TO FEAR
DEATH.

AYYYYYHHH...

WHULIMPHH!





I HAVE
WATCHED AND
WAITED, WAITED
AND WATCHED.

THE CHILD
YOU WERE ENTRUSTED
WITH HOLDS THE FATE
OF OUTWORLD IN
HER FRAGILE
FUTURE

THIS
KNOWLEDGE
AND ALL THE OTHER
SECRETS OF THIS
REALM BELONG
ONLY TO ME

BELONG
ONLY TO
NOOB
SAIBOT.



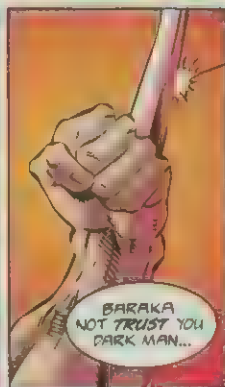
YOU TRY
TO TRICK
BARAWA



WE ARE NOT
ENEMIES,
MUTANT.

AT
LEAST NOT
THIS DAY

AGGGHHH.



MEANWHILE NOT TOO FAR AWAY...

I KNOW THAT THE EMPEROR WANTS YOU DEAD SMALL ONE.

BUT WHY? YOU DO NOT SEEM EXTRAORDINARY TO SCORPION.

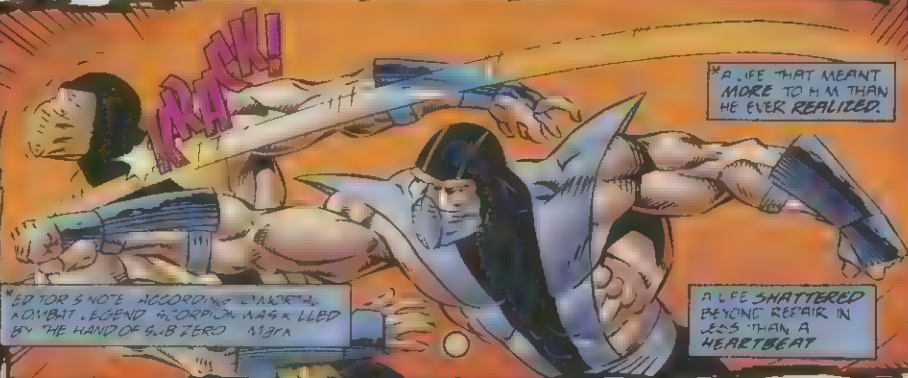
YAA... GURBLA

HOLDING THE CHILD IN HIS COLD GRASP IGNITES A RUSH OF HAZY MEMORIES.

ANOTHER CHILD.

ANOTHER WOMAN.

ANOTHER LIFE.



A LIFE THAT MEANT MORE TO HIM THAN HE EVER REALIZED.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: ACCORDING TO ANOTHER ADVENT, LEGEND SCORPION WAS KILLED BY THE HAND OF SUB ZERO. MWA

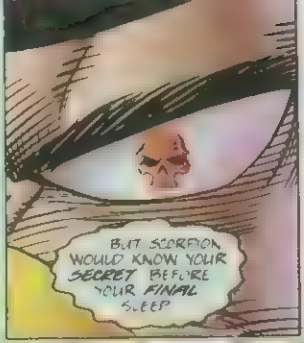
A LIFE SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR IN LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT



THE
PARK LORD
WANTS YOUR LIFE
SHUFFLED OUT,
CHOP



YOUR
DEATH IS
A SMALL
THING



BUT SCORPION
WOULD KNOW YOUR
SECRET BEFORE
YOUR FINAL
SLEEP



BARAKA

WWWKKK

THERE ARE
NO **SECRETS**
NINJA EXCEPT THOSE
THAT KEEP THEM-
SELVES.



THE DEAD
HAVE NO NEED
FOR **SECRETS**, AND
OUTWORLD HAS NO
NEED OF
SCORPION.

YOU NOT
ESCAPE BARAKA
THIS TIME,
GHOU.



FOOLS! I
SPARED YOU
FROM SCORPION'S
FULL FURY WHEN
LAST WE MET
BUT NOW...
NOW YOU SHALL
TASTE THE FLIES
OF INFERNO.

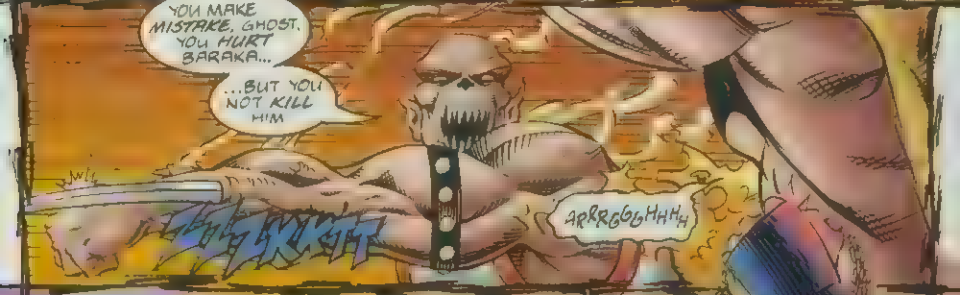
AAHHH



YOU BURN
LIKE A
CANDLE,
NINJA.

BUT NOOB
SAIBOT S AS
THE WIND

AAHH!



YOU MAKE
MISTAKE, GHOST.
YOU HURT
BARAKA...

...BUT YOU
NOT KILL
HIM

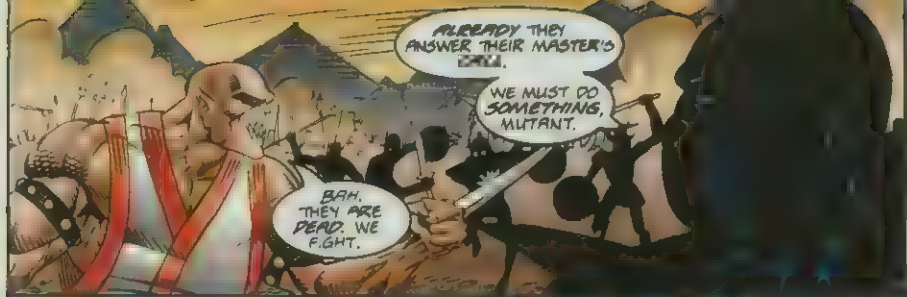
ARRRGH HHH



BEWARE
MUTANT, THE
DEAD NINJA CANNOT
BE SLAIN THAT
WAY.

YOU ARE
SO CORRECT,
INTERLOPER
WITNESS...

WITH THE
DEATHSTONE,
I HAVE CALLED FORTH
MY LEGION OF THE DEAD.



WITHOUT THE SPELL
WROUGHT BY SHAO
KAHN, THE DEAD
CANNOT REMAIN
ON THIS PLANE.

A LOW MOAN ESCAPES THE COMPANY.
FROM SOLID SHAPES, THEY REVERT
TO DUST AND ASHES.



WITH HIS ARMY UNRAVELING,
THE DIRE WARNING OF THE
DARK EMPEROR REPLAYS
ITSELF IN SCORPION'S
TORTURED MIND.

NOOOOOO!!!

"I SHALL BE
WATCHING,
DEAD NINJA."

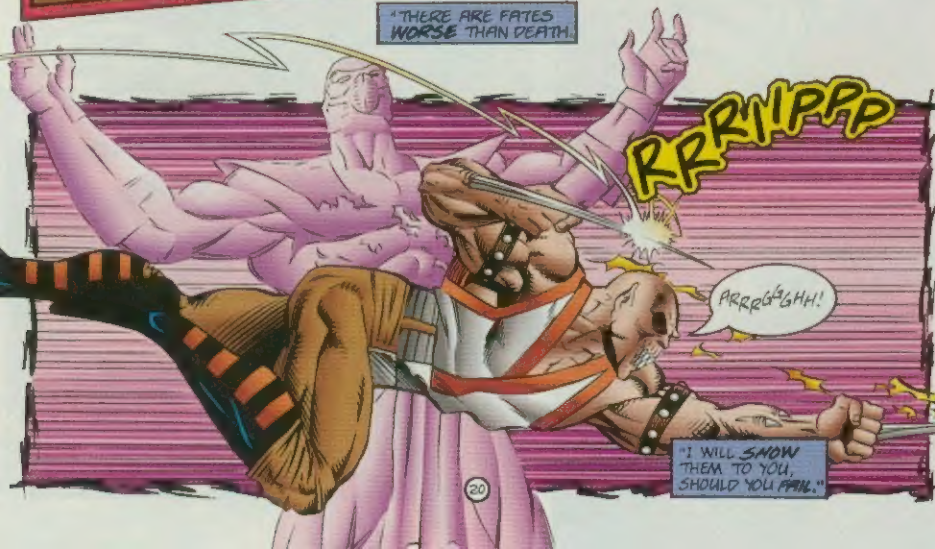


"THERE ARE FATES
WORSE THAN DEATH."

RRRIIPPP

ARRRGHHH!

"I WILL SHOW
THEM TO YOU,
SHOULD YOU FAINT."





THE GIRL...
IS SHE...?

WORRY
NOT, MUTANT.
THE CHILD HAS
NOT BEEN
HARMED.

AND YOU
HAVE ENDED A
THREAT MOST DIRT
AGAINST THIS
LAND.

BUT THE
DARK EMPEROR
WILL TRY TO
TAKE HER
AGAIN.

SHE MUST
BE HIDDEN FROM
THE WRATH OF SHAO
KHAH. I KNOW OF
PLACES WHERE SHE
CAN BE KEPT IN
SECURITY AND
SAFETY.




SHE HAS
A ROLE TO
PLAY IN THE
FUTURE OF
OUTWORLD.



NO! DO
NOT TAKE
HER!



DO NOT...
DO NOT
GO...



ALTHOUGH HE HAS OFTEN
BEEN A LONER, HE HAS
NEVER FELT THIS ALONE.

A CHILL WIND BLOWS
THROUGH HIM, TOUCHING
HIS VERY SOUL.

IN THE DAYS TO COME, HIS
THOUGHTS WILL TURN
OFTEN TO THE CHILD.

HER BRIGHT EYES AND THE HOPE
FOR A BETTER FUTURE GAVE HIM
SOMETHING WORTH LIVING FOR.

SOMETHING WORTH
DYING FOR.

SOMETHING WORTH
FIGHTING FOR.

-END-

what's new at the Bu?

The Nuts & Bolts Of It...

Howdy folks! It's been a while since my words have graced this page. I'd like to thank buddy Dan Shaheen (Who just last month was promoted to Associate Editor. Say congrats!) for stepping in and filling your heads with wisdom and whimsical rhetoric.

But now I'm back, and a quick glance at my crystal ball shows that there's some rad stuff coming: Baraka, Kung Lao and the sister team of Kitana & Mileena (all of MK fame) get their own one shots in the following months; Aron Eisenberg co-writes a Nog story for the next *DS9 Celebrity Series* book; and does the name Ensign Ro mean anything to you? How's that for telling the future?

We'd like to take this opportunity to say good luck and best wishes to former assistant editor, Clarissa Manansala. She's leaving the U.S. for the continent of Asia to further her education. We'll miss her but we can't blame her for taking on this extraordinary opportunity. Stay in school kids. You can go places (literally).

See you in 30, Ponchos, when my ESP energies have replenished!

—Mark Paniccia

PS: A Happy Father's Day wish to all the Fathers out there from Mark and Dan!

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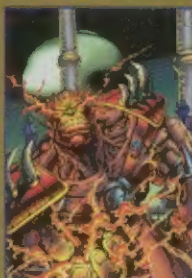
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